

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1653

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6696

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP, ASEC, ABLD

SUBJECT: EMBASSY CHANCERY AND RESIDENCE

REF: (A) BERLIN 6610; (B) BERLIN 6504; (C) BERLIN 6580;
(D) BERLIN 6656; (E) STATE 232610

1. AS NOTED IN REF A, THE GDR IS MOVING AHEAD RAPIDLY IN RECONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW CHANCERY AND OFFICIAL RESIDENCE. RSO DOIG HAS ARRIVED AND SURVEYED BOTH LOCATIONS; LT. CMD. HOFF WILL ALSO VISIT THE PROPERTIES THIS WEEK.

2. PER REFS B, C AND D WE ARE TALKING WITH GDR OFFICIALS TO RESOLVE THE QUESTION OF ACCESS. IN A MEETING WITH DLA OFFICIALS NOV. 11, THEY AGREED TO THE CONCEPT OF UNIMPEDED ACCESS DURING WORKING HOURS AND MENTIONED THEIR NOTES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE MEETINGS HELD IN JULY, 1974. WHILE AGREEING IN PRINCIPLE, HOWEVER, THEY POINTED OUT THE BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS OF THE REAL WORLD. ACCORDING TO THE DLA, EACH OF THE CRAFT SPECIALTIES WORKING IN THE NEW CHANCERY IS INDEPENDENT OF THE OTHERS AND CANNOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SAFETY OF VISITORS. TO OVERCOME THIS, THE DLA HAS APPOINTED A HERR HOFFMAN AS COORDINATOR; UPON REQUEST FOR ENTRY, HE WILL TALK TO EACH GROUP AND THEN TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY VISITORS. THE DLA PROPOSES THAT WE CALL A CERTAIN TELEPHONE NUMBER AND WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD ACCESS WILL BE GRANTED. PRESSED IF THIS MEANT ACCESS WOULD BE DENIED WITHOUT SUCH ADVANCE
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NOTICE, THE DLA REPS WOULD NOT AGREE TO THAT STATEMENT.

AGAIN THEY SAID UNRESTRICTED ACCESS DURING WORKING HOURS WAS AGREED TO; THE PROCEDURE THEY PROPOSED WAS JUST FOR OUR OWN SAFETY. PROCEEDING TO AFTER- HOURS ENTRY, THEY AGREED THAT WAS POSSIBLE UPON ADVANCE REQUEST. THEY NOTED THAT THE BUILDING WAS "CLOSED" AFTER HOURS AND THIS CREATED A PROBLEM FOR FREQUENT VISITS. USING THIS LAST AS AN ENTREE, WE NEXT PROPOSED THE IDEA OF A 24-HOUR PRESENCE OF OUR PEOPLE AT THE CHANCERY SITE. CLEARLY UNPREPARED FOR THIS, THE DLA FIRST ASKED WHAT TYPE OF PEOPLE THESE WOULD BE AND THEN SAID THEY WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER AND LET US KNOW.

COMMENT: FROM A SURVEILLANCE STANDPOINT, THE DLA WORKING HOURS PROPOSAL WILL PROBABLY SUFFICE. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT A DAILY REQUEST FOR ENTRY AT 8:00A.M., OR WHENEVER WORK BEGINS, WOULD QUICKLY BECOME ROUTINE. REGARDING THE 24-HOUR PRESENCE, THE DLA MAY DEMUR ON THE GROUNDS OF SAFETY FOR OUR PEOPLE. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FOR OUR RESPONSE IF THE GDR DOES CLAIM LEGAL LIABILITY FOR INJURIES AS ITS WAY OUT.

3. THE DLA HAS PRESENTED A LIST OF ITEMS TO BE RESOLVED; THIS IS BEING TRANSLATED AND WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPT. THEY ASKED AGAIN FOR THE CHILLER UNIT BY NOV. 25 WHICH WE WILL PROVIDE; IT WILL BE LIFTED IN BY HELICOPTER ON NOV. 28. THE DLA STRONGLY REQUESTED ONCE AGAIN THAT AN ENGINEER FROM WASHINGTON BE ASSIGNED TO THIS PROJECT. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT IT'S THEIR BUILDING AND RESPONSIBILITY, THEY POINTED OUT THAT THEY WANT TO PROVIDE US WHAT WE WANT NOW AND AVOID FUTURE CHANGES. THEY NOTED THE TIME LAPSE CAUSED BY OUR REFERRING PROBLEMS TO WASHINGTON AND SUGGESTED AN ON-SITE ENGINEER COULD RESOLVE MOST QUESTIONS IMMEDIATELY. THEY ARE VERY CONCERNED WITH LONG DELAYS OVER A GREAT MANY ITEMS IN THE NEXT STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION.

4. TO ROUND OUT THE PICTURE AND ESTABLISH A COORDI-
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NATED APPROACH, IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO HAVE AN FBO REPRESENTATIVE VISIT THE PROPERTIES. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE SUCH A VISIT TO BERLIN AS SOON AS CONVENIENT. COOPER

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